

# EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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## PRESS RELEASE

### U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN CURBING CORRUPTION

**DHAKA, MARCH 13** --U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty joined private sector leaders, government officials, diplomats, journalists and civil society representatives in Dhaka today at the International Business Forum of Bangladesh's annual general meeting to address the role of the private sector in fighting corruption in Bangladesh. The event was supported by USAID, the U.S. Government's premier development agency, as part of its Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (PROGATI) project.

In his remarks, Ambassador Moriarty noted the negative effect of pervasive corruption on the private sector. "In every area where the private sector is challenged by corruption, the cost of doing business increases. Foreign investment slows down; markets are disrupted. And the Bangladesh economy suffers," he said.

The International Business Forum (IBFB) is committed to reducing bureaucracy and corruption in Bangladesh, and plan to conduct research and advocacy events throughout 2011. Their research findings and associated advocacy events, conducted with USAID's support, has the potential to affect reform of key government policies.

The U.S. Government, through USAID, administers programs in five key areas in Bangladesh: improving health and pre-primary education; creating income opportunities for rural poor; supporting good governance; enhancing food security; and strengthening disaster preparedness and providing emergency assistance following natural disasters. Since 1971, the U.S. Government has provided over \$5.8 billion in assistance to Bangladesh.

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*Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov); Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*